

meteorology, and furnished reports to the Meteorological Office for several years. He was a frequent contributor to the local newspapers, and supplied them with monthly remarks on the climatology of the district. Mr. Jones was an accomplished performer on several musical instruments, and was for some years organist at St. Nathaniel's Church, Bristol. He had also proved himself an excellent lecturer, and gave an impressive discourse on astronomy about a week before he died. Though his name was not widely known, he formed one of that numerous band of workers who love astronomy for its own sake, and who aim to contribute their little to the general progress of knowledge. A true friend, a brilliant conversationalist, and of a most agreeable and entertaining disposition, his loss is deeply deplored. He died after a few days' illness.

JAMES ROBERT JONES was born at East Stonehouse, Plymouth, in 1840 October. His father was an officer in the Navy, who had seen active service and was once wounded, and who died at a comparatively early age, when the subject of this notice was very young. Mr. Jones was educated at the Free Schools at Plymouth until he was twelve years of age, and then was admitted to the Higher School at Greenwich Hospital. He displayed great aptitude in his studies, especially in astronomy and navigation. At the age of fifteen he was appointed a pupil teacher of the school. Having no taste for the sea, he was appointed assistant master in one of the schools of navigation in London under the Board of Trade, and shortly afterwards Head Master of the Navigation School at Great Yarmouth, which the Board of Trade had decided to open there. He held this appointment for seven years, during which time he married. In 1865 January, at the age of twenty-four, he was appointed Head Master of the Navigation School at Aberdeen.

Mr. Jones published several editions of a handbook on navigation for masters and mates, which was extensively used. He was an observer for the Meteorological Office, London, and for several years he compiled *Inglis' Tide Tables*, which had a large circulation in Aberdeen and district.

He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1869 February 12.

He died 1896 March 15, leaving a widow and four daughters.

THOMAS KEIG was born at Kirk Santon, midway between Castletown and Douglas, in the Isle of Man, in 1829. His life was spent almost exclusively in Douglas, save for a few years passed in England. It was during his sojourn in England that he attended the evening classes of Queen's College, Liverpool, devoting himself specially to the study of English literature and drawing. His first avocation was that of cabinet-maker. This he afterwards exchanged for photography. Gifted with much artistic skill, he cultivated the art of photography with great

success down to his lamented death in the spring of 1896. He left a devoted wife and family to mourn his loss.

Though ever leading an active life, and having a share in all public events in Douglas from the year 1872, he still found time in his leisure hours for deep and extensive reading in astronomy. In the autumn of 1887 Mr. Keig founded the Manx Astronomical Society. On the top of his own house he constructed an observatory. He loved to prove everything by his own research. The moon was one favourite object of his careful study. He noted down various phenomena which seemed to contradict the universally recognised theory as to the non-existence of a lunar atmosphere. He verified night after night these results. He wrote a paper describing his observations, and drawing the conclusion that the moon must have an atmosphere, which he read before the Liverpool Astronomical Society. Mr. Keig was not only the founder but the mainstay of the Manx Astronomical Society, by ever allowing his own studio to be the welcome home of their fortnightly meetings. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1889 February 8, and was the first resident Manxman who has enjoyed this distinction.

As a citizen of Douglas, Mr. Keig stood forth in the front rank. Again and again he was elected chairman of the Town Commissioners, and when the town was recently created a borough, Douglas could find no worthier son than Thomas Keig, F.R.A.S., to rule and guide, as first mayor, her new and enlarged destinies.

[For the above particulars the Council is indebted to the Rev. Edmund Walsh, R.C.P., of Douglas, I.M.]

The Rev. THOMAS MACKERETH was born at Helsington, near Kendal, on 1823 April 28. He was of humble parentage, and was apprenticed to a plumber in Manchester; but losing his parents at the age of 20, and not finding his calling congenial, he studied for and obtained an elementary schoolmaster's first-class certificate. He began a successful career as a schoolmaster in Salford, taking up his residence at Eccles in 1860, and among his pupils are a number of prominent men in South Lancashire and elsewhere. In 1878 he left the Salford School for the pastorate of the Bolton Society of the New Jerusalem Church, and held this office till 1886, when, owing to failing health, he had to retire to his native county, taking a house at Ambleside, and removing eventually to Windermere.

While at Eccles, he erected a  $4\frac{1}{4}$ -inch equatorial and a transit instrument, being assisted by the late Mr. Joseph Baxendell and Mr. J. B. Dancer, both his close friends. He often lectured on astronomy, and was always ready to help and encourage young students. He continued his almost nightly observations at Bolton, but there he had to leave his equatorial, as his failing health would not permit of exposure to the night air. He was elected a Fellow of this Society on 1865 March 10, and was also